



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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EMS TRANSMISSION: 6/23/06
Information Bulletin No. **CA-2006-022**

To: DSDs, CDD District Manager, and All Field Office Managers
(*Attention – District/Regional and Field Office FMOs*)

From: DSD, Support Services

Subject: Official Fire Weather Forecasts for FY-2006

The National Weather Service (NWS) has recently developed and deployed a new California Fire Weather web page located at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/cafw/index.php>

This web page hosts the **Emergency Communication Center Dispatch Area (ECCDA)** forecasts. This site was proposed and developed by a working team of NWS personnel from NWS Weather Forecasting Offices (WFO) that provide CA Fire Weather and representatives of the California Wildfire Coordinating Group (CWCG)

According to the national Memorandum of Understanding between the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and the NWS, it is the NWS's responsibility to provide the official shorter-range narrative forecasts. The ECCDA forecasts are the result of the NWS making a significant commitment toward providing the fire agencies with a "seamless" forecast across unit borders. ECCDA forecasts are a general fire weather forecast narrative which is tailored to roughly cover the area of influence for each ECC.

There has been a two-month review period which has allowed California ECCs to become familiar with these types of forecasts and to provide feedback to the NWS. This review period has now ended, however continued feedback to the local WFOs or the BLM CWCG representatives is desired so that this product can be further developed for your needs.

On **June 30, 2006**, ECCs should transition to and consider the ECCDA forecast to be the "official" general fire weather narrative for radio broadcasts for all California BLM offices. The Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) Predictive Service Units will cease issuing the twice-daily Fire Weather Summary, which consolidated NWS forecast information for the ECCs over the last few years.

Spot forecast requests for wildfires should continue to be requested from the National Weather Service. Spot forecast requests for Prescribed Fire activity may be directed to the National Weather Service or the GACC Predictive Service Office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Questions should be directed to Ed Duncan in the Northern California Geographic Area Operations Center at (530) 226-2831.

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